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**UNITED NATIONS
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UNU to Host Symposium on the Current Status of Biodiversity

- Event:** Symposium on the Launch of the Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 (GBO3) and the Japan Biodiversity Outlook (JBO): Current Status of Biodiversity — Life in Harmony, into the Future
- Date:** 10 May (Monday), 1:30 – 5:00 PM
- Venue:** U Thant International Conference Hall, UN University Headquarters, Tokyo
- Organisers:** United Nations University (UNU); Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ); Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)
- Supporter:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan (MOFA)

- Biodiversity — the variety of life on Earth — is now facing a severe crisis. The status of endangered species and ecosystem diversity is increasingly deteriorating due to a variety of factors, including unplanned development, deforestation, water pollution, introduction of invasive alien species, and climate change. If the current trends continue, we could reach a stage where we will no longer benefit from biodiversity to sustain our lives or livelihoods.
- The *Global Biodiversity Outlook 3* (GBO3) presents a summary of the current global status and trends of biodiversity. Developed by SCBD, it will be launched on 10 May 2010 in different parts of the world. In parallel to this effort, the *Japan Biodiversity Outlook* (JBO), which has been developed under the auspices of MOEJ, assesses the status of biodiversity in Japan over the past 50 years.
- Both studies, unprecedented in scale and depth, are expected to contribute to the upcoming 10th Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to be held in Nagoya, Aichi this October, by increasing the public awareness of biodiversity and the benefits obtained from the conservation and sustainable use of it. This symposium will celebrate the two landmark launches of GBO3 and JBO and will discuss the activities that are being undertaken in Japan towards the CBD COP 10, including the *Satoyama* Initiative.
- The symposium will provide an opportunity for us to think about how much has been achieved in relation to the post-2010 Biodiversity Target (which aims at a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010), and what each of us can do to help mainstream biodiversity into different aspects of society.
- Following a video message by Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary, SCBD, there will be presentations by Prof. A.H. Zakri, Science Advisor to the Government of Malaysia, and Co-Chair, GBO3 Scientific Review Panel; Prof. Tohru Nakashizuka, Professor, Graduate School of Life Sciences, Tohoku University, and Chair, JBO Science Committee; and an MOEJ representative. Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi, Vice-Rector, UNU will then coordinate a panel discussion in which these three presenters will be joined by Prof. Kazuhiro Ueta, Professor, Kyoto University; Prof. Masahito Yoshida, Chair, Japan Committee for IUCN, and Co-Chair, Japan Civil Network for Convention on Biological Diversity; and Ms. Kaori Fujita, Biodiversity Producer, Nikkei BP Environmental Management Forum.
- Simultaneous Japanese– English interpretation will be provided.
- For those who are unable to attend, the symposium will be webcast live (and archived) at <http://videoportal.unu.edu/e49>.

Media representatives are cordially invited to attend. Please contact Ms. Akane Minohara, UNU-IAS (tel: 045-221-2331; e-mail: minohara@ias.unu.edu) to reserve your space.

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